

Palmetto Health Family Medicine Receives First Designation in South Carolina as a Patient-Centered Medical Home

The Palmetto Health Family Medicine Center/ University of South Carolina School of Medicine Department of Family and Preventive Medicine (PH FMC/USCDFPM) has received recognition from the National Committee of Quality Assurance as a Level III Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) – the highest possible designation awarded by this entity. This practice is the first of any practice type in the state of SC to be recognized for PCMH status. A Patient-Centered Medical Home is a healthcare setting that emphasizes partnerships between individual patients and their personal physicians. The quality-focused model, which is based on joint principles developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians and the American Osteopathic Academy, replaces acute illness care with care based on prevention, care coordination for chronic diseases, and a long term-healing relationship with a healthcare team that is centered on the needs of the patient and their

family. NCQA recognizes practices that meet this designation nationally at three levels of activity and demonstrated outcomes. Primary care practices that receive a Level-III designation, like the Palmetto Health Family Medicine Center, must go through a rigorous assessment and review process.

The PCMH model is coordinated by a team, led by a physician, utilizing the latest in information technology and health information exchange. With the patient at the center of this approach, technology and electronic data allow physicians to track a patient's history, including lab tests and medications, which reduces costs, avoids duplication of tests/exams, and encourages proactive planning for both prevention and chronic disease care. Establishing a medical home for patients in the PCMH model emphasizes a more efficient appointment process and enhanced communication between patients, physicians and staff.

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Health Careers Director Soars with the Blue Angels

"Awesome! Amazing! Exhilarating! Mind blowing! WOW!" - All of these are words were used by Health Careers Program Director, Angelica Christie when she recalls her recent experience of flying in an F/A-18 Hornet jet. On Wednesday, April 15, 2010, she was given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ride along with a member of the United States Navy Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron. The primary mission of the squadron is to serve as good-will ambassadors for the United States Navy and Marine Corps through enhanced recruitment efforts while representing the naval service both nationally and internationally.



Among Ms. Christie's responsibilities is to travel throughout the state of South Carolina as a representative of the South Carolina AHEC HCP

to develop partnerships. Through her travels, she had the fortune of connecting with Navy Education Specialist, Donna Smith, who was intrigued by the HCP programs and initiatives. Eventually, the Navy became an AHEC partner. That contact also led to Ms. Christie being recognized as

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Elizabeth "Libby" Baxley, M.D., chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, is encouraged by what this designation brings to patients. She says, "This helps us to eliminate the fragmented care of the traditional model and make patient care more streamlined and personal. Working in an environment where decisions are focused on enhancing quality outcomes and the patient's experience is very rewarding. It reenergizes the practice setting for all. Having a team of health professionals that encourage and coach patients to become more proactively involved in their own healthcare can only lead to improved health outcomes for our population."

The development of the Palmetto Health / USCSOM Level III PCMH was the result of over five years of quality improvement focus within the practice. The physicians and staff in this practice completed numerous performance improvement initiatives, beginning with moving toward an Appropriate Access Model, which increased access to patient services and improved operational efficiencies and patient flow through the practice. The practice has also given significant focus to improving chronic disease care including using registries, team-based care, and a focus on self management support.

Most recently, the practice has implemented a model of care that has eliminated their waiting room and uses nurses and medical assistants in the exam room to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of patient care during the medical visit. To support these efforts, the practice has invested resources into enhancing its electronic health record and educating physicians, nurses and staff regarding quality improvement methods. As a family medicine teaching practice, significant attention has been given to developing new curricula for residents and medical students regarding quality improvement and the PCMH. As a result of the practice improvement efforts, the practice has seen increased patient, provider and staff satisfaction.

"We are so proud of this accomplishment that validates our commitment to providing the highest level of care possible for our patients," said Richard A. Hoppmann, M.D., dean of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. "Moving to the medical home model of patient care has proven to be beneficial for our patients because they receive better, more coordinated care; and for us, it means a more efficient, cost-effective method to operate the practice."

Residency Coordinator Leads on National Stage

Darlene Norton, Program Manager for the Family Medicine and Primary Care Sports Medicine Residency Program at AnMed Health, was installed as the President of the Association of Family Medicine Administration (AFMA) on March 29, 2010 at the American Academy of Family Physicians Residency Program Solutions National Conference in Kansas City, MO. She has been on the AFMA Board for three years and served as president-elect this past year.

"I am honored to have been selected for this job", states Ms. Norton.

The Association of Family Medicine Administration is dedicated to the professional growth and development of its members with particular emphasis on administration and coordination of healthcare delivery, education and research within Family Medicine Residency Programs.

For additional information, contact Ms. Norton at Darlene.Norton@anmedhealth.org.



South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium

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a key influencer, which came along with a nomination to take part in the April media flights sponsored by the Blue Angels.

"Media flights are generally reserved for reporters to promote upcoming area air shows, so imagine my surprise and excitement when I got the call," Ms. Christie shared.

The Blue Angels were established at the end of World War II as a demonstration team to promote public interest in naval aviation. The first flight demonstration of the squadron took place in June 1946 at the home base in Jacksonville, Florida. On August 25th of the same year, the now famous "Diamond Formation" was first demonstrated. Many of the maneuvers flown in Blue Angel air exhibits were strategic techniques that were used during World War aerial warfare.

With her children, Errol and Ehren, serving as her entourage, Ms. Christie arrived at the Charleston Air Force Base Visitor's Center at 11:00 a.m., and the adventure began to unfold. The small group, which also included five other individuals selected to fly or designated as fly alternates, was escorted onto base to a training room close to the air strip. The six were instructed how to maintain blood flow in the upper part of the body during maneuvers which require excessive speeds.



By 12:15 p.m., Ms. Christie, the first scheduled to fly, adorned the blue naval flight suit in preparation for flight. At 12:35 p.m., Blue Angel pilot #7, Lieutenant C. J. Simonsen entered the training room munching on a sandwich wrap. At 1:00 p.m., the group was escorted to the runway.

After posing for a few photos, Ms. Christie was helped aboard the Boeing F/A-18 Hornet, a 2-seater jet that is 56 feet long with a 40.4 foot wing span. The crew chief provided a quick overview of the panels and switches, and secured Ms. Christie into the jet. Instructions were provided on what to do in the event of regurgitation (a common experience for many first time passengers) and ejection. A demonstration of her mastery of the "hick" exercise as taught during the training session

was required by the crew chief. This technique is used to maintain upper body blood flow. When the body experiences the pressure associated with g-forces of 4 or greater, gravity forces the blood downward, resulting in a loss of consciousness, often followed by nausea.



With notification that everything had been checked off by the crew chief, and a few more photos by the Christie family, Lt. Simonsen boarded the jet. Upon clearance for taxi and take off, the jet began a quick acceleration. Take off speeds exceeded 260 knots or the equivalent of 299.2 mph. Military flight power has greater thrust than commercial flight power. The jet left the ground at a vertical ascension. "It shot straight into the air. It was tight!", Errol exclaimed in describing his Mother's take off.

When the jet leveled off, "it felt as though we were floating among the clouds," Ms Christie recalls. "Over the Charleston Harbor, we spiraled, looped, flipped and flew upside down often experiencing G-forces of 6 to 7. My flight lasted just under an hour and I saw the most beautiful views of Charleston."

"The 'hick' exercises worked like a dream; but, they were exhaustive. I admit that during the landing maneuver I lost consciousness for a few seconds, but did not experience any nausea," Ms. Christie laughs. When asked if she would do it again, she responded, "It was a once in a life time opportunity."

Pictures and video clip of Angelica Christie's Blue Angel flight are available for viewing on the SC AHEC HCP Facebook page.

Learn more about the U. S. Navy Blue Angels at www.BlueAngels.navy.mil.

Rooting in a small town: Student loan forgiveness program helps bring dentistry to rural communities

By Diane Knich, The Post and Courier

ST. STEPHEN -- William Barnette worried he would have to leave this rural community for dental care when the dentist he had seen for decades passed away.

At 84, the last thing Barnette needed was another long drive to the Charleston area for a healthcare appointment.

But Dr. Tristan Cordray, 28, purchased Dr. Herbert Orvin's St. Stephen Family Dentistry practice soon after he graduated from dental school in 2007, and began seeing patients in the tight-knit community.

"We were very, very fortunate to get this young fella here," Barnette said at his dental appointment last week. "He looks out for me."

Dr. Jack Sanders, dean of the Medical University of South Carolina's College of Dental Medicine, said Cordray made an unusual choice when he set up shop in a rural community. He's one of 20 dentists participating in a state student loan forgiveness program for those willing to practice in rural areas. The dentists receive \$75,000 over four years to apply toward their student loan debt.

The state Legislature has supported the program with \$250,000 or more each year since 2005, Sanders said. He expects to add three or four dentists this year.

Most young dentists practice in urban areas, Sanders said, where they can make more money. The average graduate leaves dental school with \$250,000 in student loan debt, so few dentists think they can afford to practice in rural areas, which generally have a higher concentration of low-income patients, he said.

But many rural residents lack access to dental care, he said. Turning that around is important because dental problems are one of the main reasons children miss school and one of the leading causes of non-trauma visits to emergency rooms.

"What we're hoping for is that dentists will move into low-income communities and stay there," Sanders said.

The folks at the St. Stephen Historical and Cultural Affairs Society's monthly community cafe lunch last week said they are hoping Cordray stays in the community a long time. Volunteer Olene Jernigan said, "We love him. We need him. But we don't want to get his head too big."

Cordray grew up on a farm in Ravenel, so he's no stranger to the rural way of life. He now lives in West Ashley and commutes to work each day. He said he and his wife, Callie, a physical therapist in Moncks Corner, will probably move to St. Stephen one day. For now, they're taking the transition a step at a time.

Linda Gregg has worked as the dental practice's front office manager for about 25 years. She wasn't sure she would stay after Orvin died if the new dentist wasn't willing to take time and genuinely care for the patients, she said.

"We know them. We know their families. They were our grade school teachers, and they're the people we go to church with," she said.

But Cordray's style is a lot like Orvin's style, she said. "It's hard to have a strict production schedule with rural people," she said.

Hygienists Ashley Branch and Brittany Humbert and dental assistants Donna Powell and Martika Callison also work in practice, which functions like a family.

Cordray said he's made a commitment to the practice and is settling in.

The student loan forgiveness money is helping out a lot. He borrowed about \$150,000 to pay for dental school. He was able to cover some of the cost with money he earned working at his family's venison processing company in Ravenel. And then he had to borrow even more money to buy the practice, he said. "I'm locked in for a good little while."

Reach Diane Knich at dknich@postandcourier.com.

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Rural Dentist Program Enters 5th Year

The Rural Dentist Program was established by the South Carolina Legislature in 2005 with funds that are appropriated to the Medical University of South Carolina and administered by South Carolina AHEC.

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Continued. from Page 4.. This initiative is modeled after the Rural Physician Program and assists dentists in repaying educational loans in order that they may practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or serve as full-time faculty at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine, without the financial burden of unpaid educational loans. The Rural Dentist Program expects that during the commitment period, the dentists will establish viable practices and become involved in their communities so that they will continue practicing in the area after the funding period is over, or will establish viable academic careers at the College of Dental Medicine. Priority for this program is given to those demonstrating need and expressing honest intent to remain in the underserved area once funding is completed or are in an area of critical need at the College of Dental Medicine.

To date, 20 rural dentists and nine MUSC faculty members have received loan repayments. The rural dentists have been funded in the following South Carolina Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas: Dillon, Sumter, Conway, Darlington, Bowman, Manning, Walterboro, Marion, Johnsonville, St. Stephen, Summerville, Greenwood, Newberry, Saluda, Spartanburg, and Andrews.

The 2010 Rural Dentist Program Board is defined by legislative proviso and is composed of the following: the Dean, or his designee, of the MUSC College of Dental Medicine (Dr. Jack Sanders); three members from the South Carolina Dental Education Foundation Board who represent rural areas (Dr. Mona Ellis, Orangeburg; Dr. Gwyn McCutchen, Loris; and Dr. Craig Wix, Bowman); and the President of the South Carolina Dental Association (Dr. Charles Maxwell). The Director of DHEC's Office of Primary Care (Mr. Mark Jordan); the Director or his designee of the Department of Health and Human Services (Ms. Shirley Carrington); and the Executive Director of the South Carolina Dental Association (Mr. Phil Latham) serve as ex-officio members without vote. Ms. Chris Vesclusio, the Director of the Oral Health Division at the DHEC Bureau of Maternal and Child Division of Oral Health is an invited guest on the Board.

South Carolina AHEC staff members Mr. Donald Tyner, Associate Program Director for Administration and Finance, and Ms. Becky Seignious, Director of Recruitment and Retention, administer the program. For additional information, contact Becky Seignious at 843-792-4439 or seignior@musc.edu.

"The Rural Dentist Incentive Program has been absolutely critical in attracting and retaining dental faculty at the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. Nationally there is a significant shortage of dental school faculty. The fifty plus dental schools in the nation report that there are three hundred thirty four vacant budgeted positions nation-wide. The national shortage is also reflected in South Carolina. Substantial decreases in state support for the CDM has significantly impacted new faculty hires in two significant ways: (1) There is no money available for salary increases needed to attract faculty away from either private practice or from our more financially secure schools; and (2) Decreased state funding has forced increases in tuition and fees, significantly increasing student debt. Given the low salary structure and the increased student debt, it is impossible for new graduates to consider an academic career without a program of debt forgiveness. The program currently allocates twenty percent of available state funds for faculty loan forgiveness. Eligible full time faculty can receive \$25,000 in taxable funds per year."

- Dr. Jack Sanders, Dean of the College of Dental Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina

"As chairman of the Rural Dentist Board, and a dentist who has practiced in a rural setting for many years, I believe the effect of the work we are doing is giving a tremendous boost to the dental health of underserved areas of South Carolina. Many of our dental graduates now have a student debt of a quarter of a million dollars. In order to repay this money, they are lured to the "Big Dollar" locations which are metropolitan areas where more people can afford dental work. This leaves the residents of financially challenged areas in our state with very little dental access.

The purpose of the Rural Dentist Program is to attract and keep dentist in these underserved areas, and to make it feasible for Medicaid recipients as well as others in the rural areas, to have good accessible dental care. The program does this by forgiving up to \$75,000 of the student debt over four years for a dentist who practices in an underserved area. The AHEC team which advises our board is so valuable to us that I can't imagine working without them. The Board makes decisions, but AHEC does the work. The funding, of course, comes from the state, and I believe this is one of the areas where we as tax payers are getting a lot of bang for the buck."

- Dr. Gwyn McCutchen, Dentist in Loris, SC

Nursing Excellence Conference Explores Current & Future Trends

*Kristin Cochran, Student Services Coordinator, South
Carolina AHEC*

On April 30th the South Carolina AHEC welcomed 167 attendees to the 2010 South Carolina Nursing Excellence Conference at the South Carolina Hospital Association in Columbia. Each year, AHEC is joined by partnering organizations across the state to plan and provide this exciting experience for all those on the journey to excellence. The focus of this year's program was to discuss current and future trends in nursing excellence.

Marianne Olson, RN, BSN, MS, led the morning session. She has been a Senior Analyst at the ANCC Magnet Recognition Program® Office for over four years and coordinates Magnet applications for the western half of the United States. The conference explored the history of the Magnet program and the evolution of the Forces of Magnetism, which has inspired the current model for recognizing nursing excellence. This discussion included: statistics about the Magnet program, the new emphasis on outcomes and the related expectations for evidence of nursing excellence, and the new eligibility requirements around educational preparation. The conference highlighted challenging areas that hospitals experience when applying for Magnet designation. Information was also presented about the ANCC program for small and rural hospitals, known as "Pathway to Excellence".

The afternoon session focused on nursing workforce trends in South Carolina and was led by Dr. Peggy O. Hewlett who has over 30 years experience in nursing education, administration, practice and consultation. Since 2005 she has served as Dean and Professor of Nursing at the University of South Carolina College of Nursing in Columbia. Following her presentation, a panel discussion on the issue of current and future trends in nursing excellence was held, and participants had the opportunity to submit questions to the panelists. Panelists included Marianne Olson, Peggy Hewlett, Carol Moody from Greenville Hospital System, Pennie Peralta from Bon-Secours St. Francis Hospital, and Linda Lacey from the Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis.

In addition, Dianne Jacobs from Upstate AHEC provided information to participants on the Upstate Lateral Violence in Nursing Project. To

date, over 2000 nurses have received training through the Upstate Lateral Violence in Nursing Project. Member's of the District 2 South Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders held a silent auction with proceeds going to Palmetto Gold, which provides scholarships to nursing students.

Throughout the day attendees had the opportunity to view 34 posters displaying evidence-based practice, how-to's, current or future trends in nursing, and nursing research. A committee judged the posters and awarded the first through third place prizes to the following participants:

Best Practice, How-To, and Trends

- 1st - "A Creative Approach to an RN Retreat," Laura Gallagher and Ellen Lyttle (Roper St. Francis Healthcare)
- 2nd - "Reduction in Patient Falls: Falls Assessment and Intervention Project on a Progressive Care Unit," Cynthia Chasteen and Cheri McElwee (Roper St. Francis Healthcare)
- 3rd - "Catheter Securement," Raquel "Kelly" Walker (Roper St. Francis Healthcare)

Research

- 1st - "Building a Keystone for Clinically Driven Research: Nursing Research Fellowship Program," Susan Bethel, Cathie Osika-Landreth, and Sue Seitz (Greenville Hospital System)
- 2nd - "Team STEPPS," Cynthia Trout, Kristen Hauck, and Kendra Blackie (Greenville Hospital System)
- 3rd - "Does Hourly Rounding Impact the Fall Rate of Patients on a Progressive Cardiac Care Unit," Amy Goodson, Janet Craig, and Dianne Spoon (AnMed Health)

People's Choice Award (voted on by attendees):

- "Timing is Everything" Effect of a Clinical Nurse Specialist Led Rapid Response Team," Cynthia Chasteen and Lee Bastian (Roper St. Francis Healthcare)

As in years past, the conference planning committee, Sigma Theta Tau, and the South Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders recognized a Nursing Workforce Leader from South Carolina who personifies the best in nursing leadership. This year Dr. Marilyn Schaffner, the Administrator, Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer at the Medical University of South Carolina, was recognized for her contributions to the nursing workforce in South Carolina. Following the awards, a reception was sponsored by the South Carolina Hospital Association.

Lateral Violence Among Nurses: Let's Get Rid of It!

Dianne Jacobs, Project Director, Upstate AHEC

Healthcare facilities are challenged daily to promote a culture of quality and safety for patients and staff. Added to these challenges is the need to retain a competent, skilled nursing workforce as well as the need to attract and retain new graduates, especially in light of a projected nursing shortage. It is well-documented that negative behavior between coworkers (often called lateral violence, horizontal hostility, bullying, and most recently, disruptive behavior) is a frequent cause of nurses, especially new graduates, leaving their jobs. It is hard to believe that the nursing profession, which is often recognized as the most trusted of all professions, has a problem with such toxic behavior; however, studies suggest that 60% of newly licensed nurses leave their first position within 6 months because of incidents related to lateral violence behavior. In South Carolina hospitals, it costs \$50,000-\$90,000 to replace each nurse leaving the workforce, which equates to a nurse's yearly salary.

In 2009, the Joint Commission implemented a new standard, requiring leaders to have a process in place to effectively identify and address disruptive behavior among staff. The Joint Commission stated that, "Safety and quality thrive in a work environment that supports team work and respect for other people, regardless of their position in the organization. Disruptive behavior that intimidates staff, and affects morale or staff turnover can also harm care. Leaders must address disruptive behavior of individuals working at all levels of the organization, including management, clinical and administrative staff, licensed independent practitioners, and governing body members."⁽¹⁾

In July 2007, Upstate AHEC received a 3-year grant funded through the Nurse Education, Practice and Retention (NEPR) division of the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) to address the issue of lateral violence among nurses. We have worked with nursing leaders in hospitals and schools of nursing in upstate South Carolina, training their staff and students to accurately define lateral violence, discuss its impact on safety, quality and retention of nurses and

identify strategies for eliminating the behavior. A unique and effective part of our training has been the use of a simulation board game, "Can We Talk", developed by Susan Kyzer of Upstate AHEC. The board game provides an effective and non-threatening environment for practicing the communication skills for confronting lateral violence behavior.

To date we have trained over 2,600 nurses, nursing faculty and student nurses and the topic has resonated with the nurses. Their personal experience stories have been compelling. As they revisit the incidents, many are visibly shaken. Unfortunately, these stories

are not isolated events. A Personal Experience Survey conducted with over 900 upstate nurses revealed that 87% (783 nurses) had been victims of lateral violence; 94% (846 nurses) had witnessed the behavior; nonverbal innuendo and backstabbing are the most common forms of lateral violence behaviors and the most common way of handling the

behavior is to ignore it! National surveys show similar results.

Even though our grant will end in June 2010, we realize the work is not done. Therefore, we are involved in several initiatives to sustain the effort of eliminating this behavior from the workplace. One of the first initiatives has been training trainers from participating facilities and providing them a turn-key program for continuing to train their staff. After participating in a train the trainer session, one school of nursing incorporated the material into their curricula. Because we realize this behavior is not unique to nursing, the training toolkit includes curricula for training the entire workforce of a facility thus enabling them to meet one of the requirements of the Joint Commission Standard. Another initiative is to take the training statewide. By working with the other South Carolina AHEC regional Centers, we are able to reach an additional 36 facilities.



"Can We Talk" board game used as a communication tool

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Pee Dee AHEC Offers “Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy” Program

Cheryl Neuner, Continuing Education Coordinator, Pee Dee AHEC

On Friday, March 26th I arose at 5:15am and prayed for sunshine as I traveled to a horse farm in Hartsville, SC to begin my day as the coordinator of “Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy.” Many readers may have never heard of Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy. I must admit that I had not either until Kay Lambert, my fellow Continuing Education Coordinator, and I began investigating different treatment modalities/therapies that incorporate animals. We were unaware that such an innovative and effective mode of therapy was happening in our own region. Our search led us to Debby Lynn, Certified Equine Specialist and Executive Director/Owner of *Equine Intervention*.



Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy or EAP, is an experiential, short-term therapy that incorporates strategies from cognitive-behavioral and postmodern solution-focused approaches. EAP utilizes horses as a metaphorical tool for developing self-awareness and creating opportunities for growth and change. It is often confused with therapeutic riding, which is typically conducted with the participant on the horse and is geared primarily for working with clients who have physical disabilities, developmental delays, and sensory needs. EAP is typically conducted on the ground, can be used with an individual, family, group, or couple and can be used in the treatment of a myriad of applications to mental health, including anger management, interpersonal conflict, addictions, cutting behaviors, defiant behaviors, marriage counseling, autism, ADHD, and has recently shown to be effective with soldiers battling Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. EAP is conducted with an equine specialist and a mental health professional such as a counselor or therapist. The two typically formulate a treatment plan based on client needs and work together in making observations about the communication between client and horse as well as insuring the physical and emotional safety of all.

The program day consisted of a brief introduction to the participants who included practicing counselors and therapists. Following the introductions, the participants moved to the working arena where we began interacting with several horses. Participants were first instructed

to select a horse, shown a pile of harnesses and leads and told to “catch’em”. Well, this city slicker was clueless and relied on the solid horse sense of a colleague, Traci Coward (Pee Dee AHEC Health Professions Student Coordinator, EAP participant, and former farm girl) to assist in applying the harness. Bottom line- if a horse does not wish to be caught-they win. (After all, they weigh 1200 lbs!)

Once the horses were caught and harnessed, Debby and Lewis Foster, nationally certified addictions counselors, Certified Equine Therapists, and co-instructors of this program provided instruction on some of the typical activities used in this treatment. Participants were also taught about the nature of the horse. Horses have an evolutionary history of being a prey

species whose survival has centered on the fight or flight instinct. Survival of the herd is dependent upon adherence to a strict hierarchy based on trust, loyalty, and the common goal of survival. Thousands of years of instincts have resulted in horses having heightened awareness of their environment, intense perception and the ability to reach into the human soul where the deepest and sometimes darkest parts of our being lie.

It was stressed that one of the most effective aspects of this type of therapy takes the counselor out of the middle and out of the role of problem solver and instead engages the participant into exhibiting behaviors rather than discussing them. The constant movement and perception of the horse with those in the arena make it almost impossible for the client *not* to engage. The therapy modalities are very versatile and multiculturally appropriate as well, enabling a wide variety of applications. The recounts of sessions conveyed between horse and client were extraordinary. It was almost unbelievable to hear about the depth of the perception these animals possess.

The group engaged in activities in the arena with the horses and in a short time it was increasingly evident which participants were leaders or followers. Equally interesting was a demonstration of how we utilize and follow instruction, interact with others, and interpret the actions of the beings surrounding

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Dr. C. Morrison Farish Named 2010 Preceptor of the Year

*Traci Coward, Health Professions Student Coordinator,
Pee Dee AHEC*

One health professions student wrote, "Dr. Farish was a GREAT preceptor! He knows so much about pediatrics and helped me develop a wonderful working knowledge of all areas of pediatrics. He had an excellent teaching style and really made me think!" Another student said, "Dr. Farish was the most engaging preceptor I've ever had! He shows a passion for teaching. He instilled in me a love of pediatrics and pushed me to think critically."

These comments led to Dr. Morrison Farish being awarded the 2010 South Carolina AHEC Preceptor of the Year. He was presented the award at the South Carolina AHEC Annual Meeting on March 15, 2010 at the South Carolina Medical Association in Columbia, SC.

The purpose of this award is to bring recognition to an outstanding community-based educator serving South Carolina health professions students. Each year practitioners volunteer to provide clinical education to students from various health professions. It is their dedication to the education of the next generation of health professionals that is honored with this award.

Nomination criteria for the South Carolina AHEC Preceptor of the Year award requires a preceptor to be involved with three or more students per year and possess positive preceptor skills as evaluated by the students taught. Dr. Farish far exceeded these criteria. He willingly accepts numerous students from several disciplines and offers a superior rotation experience for the students.

The award committee was impressed by Dr. Farish's commitment to the AHEC mission and his work to provide excellence through education. Dr. Farish has precepted health professions students with South Carolina AHEC since 1994. Through the years he has consistently received high evaluations from the students. One student reported, "Dr. Farish is a wonderful preceptor. He did a great job at teaching



Dr. Farrish is presented with the award from staff of Pee Dee AHEC including Kam Richardson, Gail Weaver, Cheryl Neuner and Traci Coward.

and allowing independence at the same time. He increased my responsibilities as I progressed." Another student said, "Of all my preceptors over the past year, Dr. Farish showed the most interest in teaching at every available moment."

Dr. Morrison Farish is the founder and president of Eastern Carolina Pediatric Associates with offices in Florence and Darlington, SC. Since its inception in 1983, Eastern Carolina Pediatrics has grown to include a staff of six board certified pediatricians and one nurse practitioner. In addition to his practice, Dr. Farish also serves as MUSC AHEC Clinical Associate Professor. He is a past president of the South Carolina American Academy of Pediatrics and presently serves on the CATCH Committee for Pediatrics. In 2006 he was awarded the SC DHEC Physician of the Year. Dr. Farish is a native of South Carolina and is married to Luanne, his wife of 39 years. They have three children and four grandchildren.

South Carolina AHEC would like to extend thanks to Dr. Morrison Farish and to honor him for his dedication! For more information on precepting health professions students in the Pee Dee Region, please visit www.peedeeahec.net.

*Continued from Page 8...*us, both human and equine. It is truly amazing how behaviors of man and beast so closely mirror one another.

All in all, you almost can't attend a session such as this without a horse helping you learn something about yourself. As for this coordinator, there may be many

more sessions needed before I'm fully "figured out", but with one lone session I have definitely developed a keen sense of where *not* to step!

For more information related to Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy, please contact Cheryl Neuner at Pee Dee AHEC at cneuner@mcleodhealth.org.

Mid-Carolina AHEC Round-Up

Continuing Education

The goal of Mid-Carolina AHEC's continuing education program is to plan and conduct educational offerings for healthcare providers that address the leading disease processes affecting the population in South Carolina. Since heart disease is still the #1 killer of the state's population, American Heart Association training center instructors train thousands of healthcare providers yearly in the AHA classes of Basic Life Support (CPR), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) as well as train community members in CPR.

To cover all disciplines of healthcare, Mid-Carolina AHEC has scheduled upcoming classes for a wide variety of providers including physical, occupational, speech, and respiratory therapists; pharmacy, surgical, and radiology technicians; medical coders and social workers. Upcoming nursing CE offerings will cover topics to train medical surgical, orthopedic, pediatric, critical care, emergency department, operating room, post anesthesia care, long-term care, hospice, rehabilitation, oncology, and psychiatric nurses.

Mid-Carolina AHEC is also proud to co-sponsor the 17th Annual SC/NC Perinatal Conference in Myrtle Beach on September 26-28, 2010 and the 27th Annual HIV/STD Conference to be held October 26-28, 2010 at the Columbia Convention Center. For more information, contact Mid-Carolina AHEC at 803-286-4121.

Health Professions Students

Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Professions Student coordinators Julie Ghent and Jeff Cauthen continued a relationship begun in the Fall of 2008 with the Chester Center of Literacy through Technology (COLT) by conducting another Interprofessional Service Learning Project (ISLP) in October-November 2009. Two third year medical students and one physician assistant student collaborated to bring the Junior Doctors of Health (JDOH) curriculum to a second grade class in this

school in Chester County, which has the highest rate of unemployment in the state. Teachers and administrators at COLT continue to be receptive to health professions students bringing JDOH to their classrooms as part of a full ISLP program or in a shorter version that still meets third year medical student requirements for a project that is conducted during their family medicine rural clerkship.

Health Careers Program

As a new member to Mid-Carolina AHEC, I have been blessed to continue the great work which has been previously accomplished by the Health Careers Program. To date, the Richland-Lexington group of HCP students has expanded from 11 students in November 2009 to approximately 40 students today. The Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program is also school-based at Lower Richland High School in Hopkins, SC and at Fairfield Central High School in Winnsboro, SC.

Mid-Carolina AHEC is proud that 26 students will be attending the 2010 Summer Institute at Winthrop University this summer. Garrett Wilson, a 9th grader from Dutch Fork High School, won the 2010 Summer Institute theme contest and will be acknowledged in the agenda booklet and recognized during the Summer Institute Leadership Banquet. Byron Anderson II won second place in the medical assisting competition at the 2010 HOSA competition in Charleston and will compete in

the national competition in Orlando, Florida the last week in June. Mid-Carolina AHEC is also extremely proud of Byron Anderson II, Demetria Bannister, Kristin Jackson, Amber Jones, Brittany Jordan, Brandy Trapp, Taylor Brown, Kourtney Davis, and Sylvia Vickers, who have all been accepted to a two or four year College/University for the 2010-2011 school year!

In the upcoming year, the Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program will be expanding to York

County and I look forward to improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare by building new relationships there.

- Erica Davis, Health Careers Program Coordinator

Continued on page 11...



Health professions students lead discussions with 2nd graders about nutrition and obesity prevention

American Heart Association Training Center



The Mid-Carolina AHEC American Heart Association Training Center is offering classes on infant CPR and choking called, "Meet CPR Teddy!" CPR Teddy comes with a training DVD. Mid-Carolina AHEC is teaching The American Heart Association Pediatric CPR class to new parents, daycares, expectant parents, or anyone who would be caring for an infant. The cost of the class includes an AHA 2-year certification for successful completion of the class, a CPR Teddy, Jr., and a practice DVD.

Press one of CPR Teddy's hands and hear instructions for an infant choking, press the other hand and hear instructions for a child choking, press his heart and hear the instructions for CPR. CPR Teddy is mobile, fits on car seats, strollers, or diaper bags and goes anywhere the child goes. Visit www.cprteddy.com for more information. Mid-Carolina AHEC is very excited to have this program to offer to its counties!

South Carolina AHEC Partners with the Personal Pathways to Success

Paula Jones, Program Coordinator, South Carolina AHEC

Personal Pathways



to success™

Empowering all students to shape our future.™

In 2005, the Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA) was signed giving South Carolina students the educational tools they need to build prosperous, successful futures. The EEDA set up a system called Personal Pathways to Success. By combining high academic standards with enhanced opportunities to explore career options and build real-life

working skills, Personal Pathways to Success gives students the guidance and experience they need to take full advantage of opportunities in the South Carolina economy.

Twelve Regional Education Centers (RECs) were established to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of information, resources, and services to students, educators, employers, and the community. The REC is best described as "matchmakers" that help ensure that the customers are able to connect with providers of the services they need. Members of the South Carolina AHEC's Health Careers Program (HCP) were invited to the South Carolina Regional Education Centers (RECs) meeting on February 23, 2010. This meeting provided an opportunity for the HCP Council to share information about South Carolina AHEC, the regional Coalitions for Health Careers, and other activities sponsored by the Health Careers Program. As a result of the meeting, each AHEC region was given access to the Kuder Connect 2 Business (C2B) database. This database allows health careers coordinators to post extended learning opportunities and job openings thereby generating awareness of the vision and mission of the South Carolina AHEC. The coordinators for both the Regional Education Centers and the Health Careers Program can also use each other as resources in order to funnel information across the state regarding sponsored programs.

Several REC coordinators presently serve on the regional Coalitions for Health Careers. Their presence will continue to assist in recruiting new members to the Coalitions. For additional information about the REC, contact Paula Jones at jonespa@musc.edu.



Interested in Learning More About South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Programs?

Complete an information request form online at www.scahec.net. Information will be sent to you for any of our programs.

Programs Include: Health Careers Academy, Summer Institute & Summer Health Careers Academy

Look For Us On
Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
healthcareers](http://www.facebook.com/healthcareers)

Contact Us Online:
www.scahec.net

Summit Focuses on Coalition Best Practices

The annual South Carolina AHEC Diversity Summit provides an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments achieved by the regional Coalitions for Health Careers (a grant funded by The Duke Endowment). Coalition initiatives are designed in response to the identified need to improve communication and strengthen collaborative efforts to address the underrepresentation of minority healthcare professionals in South Carolina.

The 2010 Diversity Summit: Building a Lasting Contribution was held February 22nd at the Brookland Baptist Church Banquet Center in West Columbia. This year, attendees included 165 educational, business and industry professionals as well as high school students from across the state. The day consisted of a dual track that enabled adult professionals to share best practices, while students, grades 9-12, participated in health career exploration sessions. The 6th annual event:

- Highlighted the best practices of initiatives designed and/or facilitated by the four South Carolina Coalitions for Health Careers,
- Provided networking opportunities for those who support increased representation of minority students in the health related professions,
- Featured resources to promote the entry of minority students into South Carolina's health professions pipeline, and
- Presented a forum to discuss future options and opportunities for continued coalition growth and development.

Blue Papers detailing the implementation practices, outcomes, lessons learned and plans for sustainability were outlined and presented by each Coalition. Attendees provided feedback through small group discussions to strengthen future project implementation.

Palmetto Health employees, Catherine Lucas, RN, along with Workforce Development Manager and Mid-Carolina Coalition member, Valerie Richardson, served as facilitators for the surgical careers session using a pre-recorded knee surgery. Patricia Shahahrami-Gates of Midlands Technical College and Sara Burton, RN also served as facilitators for the student health exploration activities.

This year's highlight was the luncheon featuring a health professions pipeline panel facilitated by AnMed family practitioner and HCP graduate, Jeneane White, MD. Panelists included HCP

graduates and current program participants: Carolina Health Academy senior, Veronica Alcantar; USC nursing student and AHEC Nursing Academy Fellow, Jessica Cook; and Furman graduate Jason Williams who will be entering the Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine in the Fall of 2010. The panel



Participants gather to discuss opportunities and challenges faced by the Coalitions and plans for going forward

successfully described first-hand the benefits of being associated with health career exploration program opportunities. Professional attendees were motivated to remain engaged in the development and facilitation of programs and initiatives while students were encouraged to engage in opportunities available in their regions.

Information about the regional Coalitions can be found by visiting each region's website:

Lowcountry:

www.lowcountryrc.org

Mid-Carolina:

[www.midcarolinaahec.org/images/mcahec_hcp\(1\).htm](http://www.midcarolinaahec.org/images/mcahec_hcp(1).htm)

Pee Dee:

www.peedeerc.net

Upstate:

www.upstaterc.org

Health Careers in Action

Tavy Smalls, HCP Coordinator, Pee Dee AHEC

On February 20, 2010, the Pee Dee AHEC Health Careers Program hosted its monthly meeting at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, SC. The meetings began at 8:30 am for freshmen and continued through the morning with seniors scheduled to arrive at 1:00 pm. Midway through the sophomore meeting, we were interrupted by loud “wind” noises coming from outside the building.

The students were interested in determining the source of the commotion and the entire group took a small “field trip” to see what was happening. The students were excited to see an emergency helicopter making a landing on the helicopter pad outside the meeting room, which is located very close to the emergency room at the hospital.

Shortly after the transported patient was taken into the hospital for emergency care, the students were invited to view the helicopter by Mr. JoJo Turbeville. Mr. Turbeville is the Business Manager and Flight Paramedic for Carolina Life Care - Omniflight. He was more than happy to let the students get inside the helicopter, check out some of the gadgets, and ask questions pertaining to his career. Mr. Turbeville spent an hour with the sophomore and junior students that morning.

Mr. Turbeville told the students he operates the helicopter in many parts of South Carolina. He travels to many hospitals, attempting to encourage the facilities to utilize their helicopter services as transportation in emergency situations. Because he is a paramedic, he was able to explain the educational process involved. Mr. Turbeville was originally a firefighter, but after working closely with EMS, he was intrigued by what they did and decided to become a paramedic. He stated that he enjoys addressing large groups, and would welcome the opportunity to come back and speak to the entire group of students. This was definitely a pleasant surprise for a Saturday morning. For more information about the Pee Dee Health Careers Program, contact Tavy Smalls at TSmalls@mcleodhealth.org.



Mad Science Camp at William J. Clark Middle School

H. Denise Kearse, Lower Savannah Regional Career Specialist

The Lowcountry Coalition for Health Careers, along with H. Denise Kearse, Lower Savannah Regional Career Specialist, sponsored a Mad Science Camp on March 5, 2010, at William J. Clark Middle School in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Twenty 7th and 8th graders participated in a day full of fun, hands-on-activities on topics that included genotype/phenotype identification, earthquake simulation, heredity, the skeletal system, nutrition, and space phenomena. Mad scientist, Nathan Addy, more fondly referred to as “Nate the Great”, provided a unique perspective on understanding these topics.

The students were visited by Dr. Jim Payne, Project Manager of the National Science Foundation, and Dr. Fran Andrews, Dean of the Health Science Department at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, who each provided insight into health related science careers. Dr. Lana Williams, Principal of William J. Clark Middle School, participated in some of the many activities with the students. Students participating included:

7th Graders: Kiana Roebach, Martin Aduma, Jarrell Everett, Kayla Jamison, Yulisa Garcia, Kodi Briggman, Starre Carr, Fredric Johnson, Donte Shuler, Angelic Barton

8th Graders: Mehin Meethal, Jervonte Caldwell, Latoya Charley, Jayneil Green, Kadeji Jones, Montrel Chalk, P'yuncka Kearse-Peebles, Tyheshia Murph, Monesha Gladden, Trayvond McFadden, Jalia Kearse, Iceces Scott

In addition to the William J. Clark Middle School, Mad Science camps were also sponsored at St. George Middle School, Colleton Medical Center and Beaufort Memorial Hospital. All total, 82 students participated in Mad Science camps sponsored by the Lowcountry Coalition for Health Careers.

Teach-the-Teacher Academy Opportunities Continue in 2010

The South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program collaborates with the Career and Technical Education Division of the South Carolina Department of Education to promote the interdisciplinary exploration of health professions. Since 2006, with the endorsement of the Department of Education, the South Carolina AHEC has facilitated the Teach-the-Teacher Academy providing instructional tools and information educators can utilize when working with students who demonstrate an ability or interest in health related careers. During the coming year, the Academy will be presented in a variety of formats and provide instruction for middle and high school educators to assist in promoting and strengthening health career advocacy.

The South Carolina AHEC is pleased to present the Teach-the-Teacher Academy on June 28 – July 1, 2010 at the South Carolina Education and Business Summit (EBS). The EBS is a professional development, training, and informational conference that supports all aspects of career and technology education. The EBS provides the perfect forum for the Academy to provide current and relevant information and activities to support health career guidance and advisement to students. Participants of the Academy will be

equipped to guide students' decision making and career planning as it relates to the hundreds of career opportunities that comprise the healthcare workforce.

Hosted and sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Education, the Academy will be facilitated by Sara Burton, RN on June 28 – 29 at the Carolina First Center in Greenville, SC. Space for the Academy is limited. Pre-registration is required and available at www.scahec.net/teach.htm. There is no additional cost beyond the EBS registration fee to experience a wonderfully interactive opportunity to explore health professions as an Academy participant. Registration information for the 2010 Education and Business Summit is available on line at www.ebsummit.info/EBSForms.html.

Following the EBS, additional opportunities for the presentation of the Teach-the-Teacher Academy will be available through contract with the South Carolina AHEC to meet the needs of individual schools or school districts. To schedule the facilitation of the South Carolina AHEC Teach-the-Teacher Academy for your school or school district, contact Angelica Christie, Health Careers Program Director, at christae@musc.edu.

| Teach the Teacher Options | | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|----------------------------|--|---|----------|----------|---------------|
| Program Details | Duration | 18 Hours | 16 Hours | 8 Hours | 2 Hours |
| | | 2 Consecutive Days or 3 Non-consecutive Days within a 30-day span | | | |
| | Cost | \$3,000 | \$2,800 | \$1,200 | \$250 Minimum |
| | Maximum Number of Participants | 25 | 50 | 50 | See Below* |
| | Facilitator | x | x | x | x |
| | Supplies | x | x | x | x |
| Presentation / Workshop | Introduction to Health Careers Clusters & SC Job Market | x | x | x | x |
| | Health Career Exploration Resources | x | x | x | x |
| | Introduction to Regional Health Career Student Exploration Opportunities | x | x | x | x |
| | Comprehensive Overview of Health Professions | x | x | x | |
| | Health Career Exploration Classroom Infusion Techniques | x | x | x | |
| Experiential | Workplace Observation Opportunity (Site Visit) | x | | | |
| | Health Professional/Health Profession Student Panel | | x | | |

*Option 4: Cost is based on up to 50 participants. For each additional participant, add \$10 to cover supplies.

Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH)

Emily Warren, LMSW, Health Professions Student Coordinator, Lowcountry AHEC

Lowcountry AHEC is partnering with the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association, the South Carolina Office of Rural Health, and the South Carolina AHEC to provide meaningful student experiences in community-based primary healthcare settings. The SEARCH program strives to facilitate the development of culturally competent, community-responsive health professionals and promote interest in serving medically underserved and vulnerable populations.

Lowcountry AHEC is involved with the interdisciplinary portion of the SEARCH program. With the collaborative efforts of Beaufort-Jasper-Hampton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc., Lowcountry AHEC successfully implemented the first interdisciplinary pilot on March 18, 2010. Five students participated in the pilot including one Medical University of South Carolina Physician Assistant student and four 3rd year Osteopathic Medical students from A.T. Still University.

At the didactic orientation session, the students were introduced to the concepts of interdisciplinary teams in healthcare, community focused health promotion and cross cultural healthcare. As part of their SEARCH experience, they worked as an interdisciplinary team to assist with several screenings (cholesterol, blood pressure, and diabetes) at the Hampton Community Health Fair on Saturday, March 27th.

Lowcountry AHEC would like to extend a special thanks to the staff at Beaufort-Jasper-Hampton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc., SC DHEC Region 8, SC Office of Primary Care, SC Office of Rural Health, and the health professions students for making the first pilot program a SUCCESS!! We look forward to future collaboration and the expansion of this model to all South Carolina AHEC regions next year.

"Sharpening Our Focus"

The 7th Annual Workshop for Nurse Aide Training Coordinators & Instructors was held on April 21st at the South Carolina Hospital Association in Columbia, SC. This year's theme focused on "Sharpening Our Focus" to improve on the skills and knowledge certified nurse aide students need to practice in South Carolina.



This year's keynote speaker was Michelle Deck and she presented teaching skills to "inject new life" into the learning process. She is the Cofounder, President and Chief Executive Officer of G.A.M.E.S., a company that provides seminars for any organization, specializing in adult learning and interactive teaching methods. The afternoon portion of the program was spent reviewing the "most missed steps in the most missed skills" from the CNA certification exam. Live demonstrations and a Q&A session enabled participants to see and hear the areas where they could help their students improve.

The Workshop is a collaborative effort involving Aiken Technical College, the USC Center for Nursing Leadership, NACES Plus Foundation, the USC Office for the Study of Aging, the South Carolina AHEC, Aging Services of South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

For additional information, contact Carol Cornman, Director of the USC Office for the Study of Aging, at 803-777-5337 or visit www.sph.sc.edu/osa.

The South Carolina AHEC Locum Tenens Program

The Locum Tenens Program provides assistance to family practice and pediatric physicians who work in rural or isolated practice sites by allowing the physicians to attend medical education seminars or take vacation with their families. Locum Tenens services provide relief for physicians who might otherwise burnout and abandon a rural practice in favor of a more urban site where relief is more readily available. This service is provided at a substantially reduced rate when compared to professional Locum Tenens services, due to multiple funding sources including South Carolina AHEC, the statewide Family Practice Residency Program Directors, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. If you are interested in this service, please contact Becky Seignious at 843.792.4439 or seignior@musc.edu.

Lifelong Learning

Kay Lambert, CE Coordinator, Pee Dee AHEC

Through providing continuing education to healthcare professionals, there is the opportunity to meet many unique individuals. Recently, at a Pee Dee AHEC continuing education program, there was one such participant who clearly was unique! We couldn't overlook this milestone.

At four o'clock in the morning on February 25, 2010, Cornell Reynolds, age 90, called his nephew to ask when he was going to pick him up to drive him from Calhoun Falls to Florence, SC for a continuing education program. He was ready to go and was inquiring when his nephew would arrive at his home. Mr. Reynolds' younger brother, age 87, was making the trip as well. It was a family day for a road trip to Florence.

Mr. Reynolds, who served as an elementary school principal for over 38 years, has a low tolerance for tardiness and developed a friendly rivalry with the custodian at his school regarding who would arrive first. In the 1980's, Mr. Reynolds sought business endeavors in real estate and funeral homes and was early to arrive at the day's program "2010 OSHA Update for Funeral Homes". He came with his license renewal in mind.

Stephen Burt, President and CEO of Healthcare Compliance Resources, Inc. in Roanoke, VA, was the OSHA educator at the program and has over 30 years of experience working with healthcare facilities to ensure compliance with safety. Thirty years of experience is significant, but it does not hold a candle to Mr. Reynolds. After reviewing continuing education files, Pee Dee AHEC believes that a 90-year old participant is a record.



Cornell Reynolds was a history making student for Stephen Burt

The presenter, Stephen Burt stated, "I don't think that I've ever had anyone in a training class that was 90 years old. Today is a history-making day for me as well."

Not only did Mr. Reynolds stay for the entire 6 hour program, he was the last participant to leave because he was serious about completing the program evaluation. When he was asked what he thought about the education program, he said, "It was just fine!"

It was a dreary, cold winter day when this program was conducted, but those who got the pleasure of meeting Mr. Reynolds smile warmly when they think of him!

Continued from Page 7... A third and very exciting initiative has been the formation of a statewide task force. Upstate AHEC along with USC's Center for Nursing Leadership and the South Carolina Nurses Association convened a group of nurses representing hospitals, schools of nursing and nursing organizations with the vision of achieving a culture of respect and caring, free of lateral violence. There has been a lot of energy and activity in the group which recently co-sponsored a day long workshop with a major focus on what is happening statewide to address lateral violence. The workshop drew a full house of 240 nurses.

I am very grateful to have been involved with this project which has been some of the most rewarding work of my nursing career. I have been privileged to work among colleagues who work tirelessly every day to care for their patients or support those who do as well as those who train future nurses. Together we can achieve a culture of respect. For more information contact Dianne at djacobs@upstateahec.org.

⁽¹⁾The Joint Commission, Pre-Published Standards. Organization Culture and Safety. Retrieved October 18, 2008 from <http://www.jointcommission.org/pre-publishedstands/ororganizationcultureandsafety>.

Rural Physician Incentive Grant Recipient Shares His Story

Since my final days at Francis Marion and my acceptance into the USC School of Medicine, it has always been my desire to practice medicine in an area where I could make a difference and an area where I felt comfortable raising my family. Decision time came during my second year of residency at McLeod Family Medicine Center in Florence. After evaluating multiple options, my wife and I decided on the Lake City/ Kingstree area, a rural area located in the Pee Dee.

For most Family Practitioners, these decisions are made somewhat easier if you are locating in an urban center. Friends coming out of their residency program were being offered significant incentives and/or guarantees to practice in urban centers. But if you are thinking rural and are faced with significant debt from medical school and residency, this decision becomes more difficult. Unfortunately rural areas and rural hospitals have a difficult time competing with urban centers. For those of us wanting to practice in a rural area, our financial options are limited.



Thanks to the Rural Physician Incentive Grant awarded to me by the SC AHEC, I was able to locate my practice in this rural area, which serves lower Florence County and Williamsburg County, the poorest counties in the state. Without the incentive grant, which helped with my educational loans and also helped me financially to establish my practice, it would have been virtually impossible to have located in this area. Two of my partners also received the incentive grant and both have indicated to me that without the grant, their decisions to establish practices in this area may have been different. We are scheduled to have over 30,000 visits this year, in an area that is very rural and very poor.

Unfortunately, even now, the same issues that I faced continue to present barriers to rural practice. If for any reason, the AHEC Incentive Grant were to be discontinued, the rural areas of our state would suffer dramatically. Many of the dedicated family practitioners who have served the rural areas of our state over the past 30 – 40 years are now reaching retirement age. There must be financial options available to entice the newly trained residents to consider practice in rural South Carolina. The Incentive Grants are a small investment by the state to ensure that quality medical services are available to 40% of our population.

I am indebted to the South Carolina AHEC, the Medical University of South Carolina and the South Carolina Legislature for making this possible. I not only thank you personally, but I thank you on behalf of hundreds of my colleagues who have been able to practice medicine in rural South Carolina.

- Wade Lamb, MD

Workforce Office Welcomes New Staff



Bridget Micka is the new Research Assistant for the Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis & Planning. She will be assisting the Director, Linda M. Lacey, with data collection and the development of reports and publications to inform diverse audiences about healthcare workforce issues.

Bridget graduated from West Virginia University in 2006 with a MA in Sociology. Originally from Philadelphia, Bridget has been living in the Charleston area for the past three years. Prior to joining the South Carolina AHEC, Bridget was a counselor for high school and college students with disabilities at the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

Bridget Micka can be reached at micka@musc.edu.

Beaufort Memorial Hospital the 2010 Clinical Teaching Site of the Year

Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) has been selected as the South Carolina AHEC Clinical Teaching Site of the Year for 2010. In the 2008-2009 school year, 13 Lowcountry AHEC health professions students received hands-on, patient-centered instruction during their clinical rotations at BMH. This year's students primarily came from The Medical University of South Carolina's Physician Assistant and Rehabilitation Sciences programs, and the South Carolina College of Pharmacy.

BMH's dedication to student clinical education and support of students rotating through their facility is the reason South Carolina AHEC is recognizing it as Site of the Year. The award is based on the following criteria: being an active interdisciplinary clinical teaching site, positive feedback on evaluations completed by students, and letters of nomination from coordinators and students.

The excellent testimonials submitted by students who have completed rotations at BMH impressed

the award committee. As one student said, "The level of education and training I received from my preceptor at this site stands out above the rest as far as depth and breadth of medical knowledge."



Laurie B. Martin, Peggy Hitchcox and Trish Deems accept the award for BMH from Lowcountry AHEC staff Emily Warren and Kimbley Stephens

Another student commented, "Whether it was suturing a laceration, intubating a patient, or assisting with a serious pedestrian accident, I was never left behind...I left Beaufort Memorial Hospital more confident, more educated, and better prepared in my future rotations."

In May of 1944, BMH opened its doors with 25 beds. BMH is a not-for-profit hospital treating everyone regardless of their ability to pay. The hospital's primary mission is "to deliver superior healthcare services

to our patients and to improve the health of our community." Over the years, the hospital has grown to a capacity of 197 beds.

The formal award was made at the South Carolina AHEC Annual Meeting awards luncheon on March 15, 2010. For additional information about the Health Professions Student Programs at Lowcountry AHEC, call 843-782-5052 or visit www.lcahec.com.

Upstate AHEC Announces New Staffing

It is Upstate AHEC's pleasure to announce that Tina Fulton is now Acting Health Professions Student Coordinator for Upstate AHEC. Tina, who, for many years, has supported Upstate efforts as a Program Assistant/Marketing Coordinator, is replacing Rahha Larajani. Tina received her Bachelor's of General Studies degree from Furman University in Business Administration and has worked closely in the past with staff to ensure the effective delivery of HPS services. Consequently, she is ideally positioned to collaborate with Nancie Stover-Nicholson in anticipating and meeting the needs of health professions schools, students, and preceptors. Contact Tina at tfulton@upstateahec.org.



Upstate AHEC is also pleased to introduce Sarah Tice, our new Program Assistant/Marketing Coordinator. Sarah is a 2009 Furman graduate with a B.A. in Graphic Design. She has worked most recently with the Linning, Smoak & Crawford public relations firm where she assisted with event planning for organizations such as the Greenville Hospital Association, The Cascades Verdae, and Upstate Forever. Sarah is committed to moving us into better use of social media. Contact Sarah at stice@upstateahec.org.

Annual Meeting Explored Education Technology in 21st Century

The 2010 South Carolina AHEC Annual Meeting focused on emerging social media and networking tools to help connect healthcare professionals and deliver education. The South Carolina AHEC system has been successful in utilizing several applications to track students as they progress through the pipeline.

Highlights included discussions on current initiatives and ways to utilize additional applications; a presentation by Dr. Gary Goforth about his use of videoconferencing technology while working to establish a family medicine residency training program in Kabul, Afghanistan; and a presentation by Dr. Iwana Guess Ridgill about thriving in a climate of organizational change.

In addition to sessions focused on technology, the system took time to recognize and celebrate the work being done across South Carolina. The *Friend of AHEC* was awarded to Senator John Courson for his work strengthening the health professions training pipeline for the state. Accepting in his place, due to a recent surgery, was his long-time aide Robin Moseley. The 2010 South Carolina AHEC Ambassador Award was presented to Donald Tyner, Associate Program Director for Administration and Finance, for his tireless work in securing the system's future.



Donald Tyner is recognized as the 2010 South Carolina AHEC Ambassador

Members of the AHEC system were also recognized for their years of service:

5 Years



Ragan DuBose-Morris



Dianne Jacobs



Kay Lambert



Laura Sams

10 Years



Susan Eliese Allen



Kim Roberts

15 Years



Pam Bartley

25 Years



Bennie Pettit

The attendees left the meeting energized for the future and prepared to continue their exploration of new technologies for the benefit of South Carolina's healthcare workforce.



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CALL FOR ARTICLES:

The editorial staff of "South Carolina AHEConnects" welcomes the submission of articles, success stories and upcoming events for the Fall Edition.

Please forward information, articles and photos to Ragan DuBose-Morris at duboser@musc.edu. The deadline for submissions is August 2, 2010.

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